GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7147
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2000
CHANGE IN USE OF GYMNASIUM AT NAVAL STATION, VISAKHAPATNAM
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eastern Naval Command Headquarters had sanctioned a sum of Rs. 66.80 lakh for the construction of an additional gymnasium at naval station, Visakhapatnam for sailors and officers of the Navy but the flag officer commanding-in-chief Eastern Navy Command changed the use as `integrated welfare complex` i.e. for running restaurant, bank, ice-cream parlour, beauty parlour, health club, telephone booth etc. by private parties on rental basis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken, if any, against the persons found responsible?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 7147 11.5.2000.

Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command had accorded administrative approval for construction of Gymnasium at Nausenabaugh, Visakhapatnam at an estimated cost of Rs. 66.80 lakhs in February 1996 for sailors and officers of the Navy at the station under delegated powers. The station had a gymnasium, which was not found sufficient for the strength of the sailors and officers at the station. Chief Engineer (Navy), Visakhapatnam concluded a contract in August 1996 for the construction of gymnasium at a cost of Rs. 69.23 lakhs. The work was completed in October, 1997 at a total cost of Rs. 73.29 lakhs.
FOC-in-C, Eastern Naval Command had issued order in October, 1997 declaring the gymnasium as an `Integrated Welfare Complex` under the name and style of `Avantika`. The complex is being used for providing education, health, recreation amenities like restaurant, bank, telephone booth, health clubs (gents and ladies), beauty parlour, ice-cream parlour, creche, saloon etc. mostly through private parties on rental basis. In its report for the year 1997-98 the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has observed that the facility created for use as a Gymnasium is not being used for the intended purpose. The matter is under examination.